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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Hong Kong tung oil shipments to the United States during November 1949 amounted to 253 short tons.

Taiwan's (Formosa) Executive Yuan has authorized reductions of 50 percent or more in import duties on vegetable oils and peanuts.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to those needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

WORLD RICE PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

The world rice harvest of 1949-50 (August-July) is estimated at 3 percent less than the preceding year, and slightly above the prewar average, according to the Office of Foriegn Agricultural Relations. Production is forecast at 7,400 million bushels compared with 7,600 million bushels a year earlier, and with 7,300 million bushels during the prewar average (1935-36/39-40) period.

The decline is centered in Asia, where China's crop has dropped sharply. The world acreage is about 3 million acres or 1.4 percent less than in the preceding year, principally as the result of acreage reductions caused by civil disturbances in the surplus area of Asia. European and African harvests are expected to approximate those of a year earlier, while record crops may be produced in North and South America.

Asia's production is forecast at 6,850 million bushels, or about 93 percent of the world's total. It is 3 percent less than 7,050 million bushels in the preceding year, and 2 percent less than the prewar average of 7,000 million bushels. Output decreased sharply in China and Burma, and a smaller crop is reported in Korea. Production, however, is indicated to be larger in Japan, the Philippines, and Taiwan, and in India and Pakistan it may equal or exceed last year.

China's harvest is estimated at 2,180 bushels, or 6 percent below last year and 11 percent below the prewar average. The acreage harvested approximated that of last year, but summer floods caused a pronounced drop in the per acre yields.

Official estimates are not available for Indian rice acreage and production in 1949-50. Acreage is reported to have increased and weather conditions generally have been reported favorable. Given a record acreage of 61,500,000 acres, slightly larger than last year, and yields equal to the prewar average, a crop of 1,585 million bushels would be produced. If above-average yields are harvested, the 1949-50 crop may exceed this estimate.

In the case of Pakistan official statistics for rice production have not been available since 1947-48. Taking into consideration the available data on the acreage of the 1949-50 autumn and winter crops, and weather conditions thus far, the total area planted may be only slightly smaller than in the year before and production may approximate or exceed the unofficial estimate of 585 million bushels for 1948-49.

A near-record harvest in Japan of 599 million bushels was 2 percent larger than last season's good crop, and slightly above the prewar average. As the result of dry weather in Korea at the time of planting, however, acreage and production in that country were less than in the preceding year. A record crop is expected in the Philippines.

ROUGH RICE: Acreage, yield per acre and production in specified countries, averages 1935-36 to 1944-45, annual 1947-48 to 1949-50 1/

Continent and country	Acreage					Yield per acre		Production				
	Average					Average		Average				
	1935-36 to 1939-40	1940-41 to 1944-45	1947-48	1948-49 2/	1949-50 2/	1935-36 to 1939-40	1949-50 2/	1935-36 to 1939-40	1940-41 to 1944-45	1947-48	1948-49 2/	1949-50 2/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA												
Costa Rica	28	27	30	34	46	33.4	31.5	935	916	952	1,108	1,450
El Salvador	26	45	45	48	48	26.9	30.2	700	1,027	1,370	1,540	1,450
Mexico	95	155	179	210	231	42.2	31.8	4,007	5,330	6,752	7,838	7,348
Panama	50	3/ 79	128	134	148	32.0	26.5	1,600	3/ 2,318	2,987	3,691	3,917
United States	1,004	1,338	1,693	1,781	1,821	49.7	49.0	49,852	60,849	78,259	85,056	89,141
Cuba	45	69	120	123	120	21.4	24.6	965	1,587	2,867	3,000	2,956
Total	1,425	1,920	2,420	2,613	2,682	-	-	62,182	77,669	99,033	109,800	113,435
EUROPE												
Bulgaria	19	28	-	-	-	54.8	-	1,041	1,469	-	-	-
France	1	1	6	12	20	30.0	49.0	30	36	245	590	980
Italy	362	381	327	352	330	103.9	100.3	37,620	37,900	34,300	34,300	33,100
Portugal	47	62	65	70	55	72.3	65.9	3,398	3,795	4,213	4,489	3,625
Spain	110	121	130	137	130	4/ 124.4	97.7	10,600	11,600	12,740	11,500	12,700
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.)	553	616	579	657	638	-	-	53,166	55,610	54,085	55,114	55,030
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	3/ 384	-	-	-	-	3/ 42.3	-	3/ 16,225	15,500	-	-	-
ASIA												
Iran	3/ 534	580	544	544	544	3/ 37.1	33.3	18,577	21,100	15,607	17,147	18,126
Iraq	3/ 386	479	-	-	-	3/ 27.3	-	11,176	14,904	12,740	18,100	16,500
Syria	2	3	20	18	-	55.5	-	111	183	1,057	735	-
Turkey	78	66	59	59	63	61.2	81.7	4,774	3,905	4,042	4,483	5,144
Burma	12,671	10,650	9,286	9,921	7,666	27.5	26.6	348,534	275,000	274,310	264,708	204,089
China	5/ 48,853	45,000	45,373	45,617	45,631	5/ 50.2	47.8	5/ 2,452,710	2,200,000	2,278,436	2,360,000	2,180,000
Taiwan	1,616	1,539	1,631	1,782	1,819	53.0	45.2	85,704	72,505	71,727	75,000	82,300
Manchuria	782	975	-	-	-	40.6	-	31,783	34,336	22,850	22,500	18,370
French Indo-China	14,306	13,000	12,900	13,500	12,000	22.4	22.5	319,910	285,000	290,000	285,000	270,000

ASIA (Continued)												
India 6/	7/ 54,237	55,672	60,818	60,480	61,500	7/ 25.8	25.8	7/1,399,525	1,369,943	1,463,728	1,535,000	1,585,000
Japan	7,862	7,653	7,830	7,850	7,850	75.8	76.3	595,845	556,057	553,405	587,771	598,861
Java and Madura	9,794	9,330	9,000	9,555	-	32.0	-	313,144	304,465	275,000	297,000	-
Korea	3,838	3,601	8/ 2,753	8/ 2,745	8/ 2,580	51.0	8/ 54.4	195,763	181,601	8/131,983	8/147,717	8/140,405
Malayan Union	746	790	862	923	900	36.3	-	27,099	25,000	26,207	21,970	-
Pakistan	7/ 18,702	20,605	21,036	21,400	21,350	7/ 29.0	27.4	7/542,321	561,708	569,900	585,000	585,000
Philippine Islands	4,852	5,265	5,007	5,347	5,250	21.6	23.6	104,877	110,000	109,782	122,051	124,000
Thailand	7,088	6,750	6,700	7,500	7,500	30.1	33.3	213,079	200,000	230,000	250,000	250,000
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.)	198,756	196,501	200,888	204,564	201,358	-	-	6,988,702	6,576,712	6,766,941	7,051,146	6,847,644
SOUTH AMERICA												
Argentina	52	91	128	128	148	59.8	49.7	3,112	5,652	5,497	5,879	7,350
Brazil	2,323	3,042	4,095	4,152	-	28.6	-	66,424	95,237	124,800	120,000	-
British Guiana	70	83	107	95	-	50.8	-	3,559	4,055	4,760	4,976	-
Chile	13	68	70	60	-	99.9	-	1,299	5,162	4,381	4,087	-
Paraguay	5	12	10	20	37	39.2	39.7	196	422	416	857	1,470
Peru	107	137	132	94	-	42.8	-	4,578	6,716	10,132	6,423	-
Surinam	37	33	38	45	40	46.0	71.5	1,703	1,867	1,889	2,861	2,860
Uruguay	13	13	31	33	-	66.6	-	866	827	1,824	2,095	-
Total	2,914	3,999	5,254	5,336	5,466	-	-	88,926	132,671	172,200	168,575	179,749
AFRICA												
Egypt	463	600	805	816	-	71.6	-	33,135	36,049	62,533	64,074	62,000
French West Africa	3/ 1,562	1,860	-	-	-	3/ 13.4	-	3/ 20,936	24,700	-	-	-
Madagascar	1,195	1,227	1,430	1,430	1,430	28.3	24.0	33,823	34,851	34,300	34,300	34,300
Sierra Leone	340	-	780	780	-	26.8	-	9,100	-	13,230	13,230	-
Total	4,320	5,483	7,075	7,160	7,031	-	-	109,811	127,446	169,192	172,445	170,410
OCEANIA												
Australia	23	30	26	31	33	92.0	84.8	2,117	2,462	2,498	2,556	2,800
Fiji	10	22	25	-	-	43.1	-	431	1,006	-	-	-
Total	40	72	85	91	94	-	-	2,703	3,918	4,448	4,531	5,625
World total	208,400	209,000	216,600	220,800	217,700	-	-	7,322,000	6,990,000	7,281,000	7,579,000	7,390,000

1/ Crops harvested in Northern Hemisphere countries during the latter part of the year, together with those harvested in Asia principally from November to May, are combined with crops harvested in Southern Hemisphere countries during the first part of the following year. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 5-year average. 4/ Average 1930-34. 5/ Average 1931-37. 6/ Includes acreage and production in areas regularly reported only. 7/ Average 1936-37 to 1939-40. 8/ South Korea only. In the 1935-39 period, production averaged about 150,000,000 bushels.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

The total production of Asia's surplus area, Burma, Siam, and French Indochina, is estimated at 9 percent less than in the preceding year and 18 percent below prewar production. The harvest is estimated at 725 million bushels compared with 800 million in a year earlier and with 880 million bushels before the war.

Burma's acreage declined 23 percent, or 2,250,000 acres, below the 9,921,000 acres harvested the year before, according to a preliminary forecast. The harvest therefore is expected to yield only 204 million bushels compared with 265 million bushels in 1948-49 and approximately 350 million bushels in the prewar (1935-36/39-40) average period. Farmers reduced acreages as the result of the civil unrest in Burma.

The production of Siam is expected to approximate the near-record of the preceding year. Late rains retarded planting of the crop, but late-season rainfall was sufficient to produce relatively high yields per acre. Information from French Indochina, where a rice blockade continues to prevent the shipment of surpluses, would indicate growers probably reduced acreages this year. Weather conditions there during the first part of the growing season were reported favorable.

Europe's production is estimated at 55 million bushels, about the same as in the preceding year, and 4 percent larger than before the war. The acreage was 15 percent above the prewar average, but the per-acre yields are lower than the prewar average, principally because less fertilizer was used compared with prewar application.

The acreage of Italy was reduced 6 percent, but the yields were higher than in the preceding year and a crop approaching that of the year before was produced. Farmers reduced the area planted when large surpluses accumulated from the 1948 crop. The planted acreage of Spain increased 4 percent, but October floods reduced the area for harvest. Although production was less than expected, it exceeded that of the year before. As a result of a decline in the use of fertilizers, the return per acre remained substantially less than in the early 1930's, when Spain's yields were the highest in the world.

The record harvest of North America is estimated at 113 million bushels compared with 110 million bushels in the preceding year and 62 million bushels before the war. This increase is due primarily to a gain in the United States, where the acreage and production increased 2 percent and 5 percent, respectively. Mexico increased its planted area 10 percent, but low yields per acre resulted in a smaller crop than the year before.

Production in Central America totaled 8.8 million bushels compared with 9 million in the preceding year and only 4.8 million bushels before the war. Record acreages planted in Panama and Costa Rica resulted in a marked increase in the production of those countries. Smaller crops were harvested in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and British Honduras.

Gains are indicated in the rice acreage of South American countries. Increases are expected in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, and Chile. If climatic conditions are average in producing countries through the remainder of the growing and harvesting seasons, a record crop, substantially above that of the preceding year, may be harvested.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production prepared by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, C. M. Purves, Paul E. Quintus, L. Thelma Willahan, T. O. Engebretson, and C. S. Stephanides.

LENTIL PRODUCTION SLIGHTLY BELOW NORMAL FOR CURRENT POPULATION

Lentil production in 18 of the more important producing countries is estimated at 5.3 million bags of 100 pounds each in the 1949-50 season. This is 6 percent less than the 5.6 million bags produced in 1948-49, but 7 to 8 percent more than was produced in these countries in the war years 1940-44 or in the prewar years 1935-39.

On the basis of these estimates the 1949-50 production appears to be only slightly below the quantity needed to provide present world population with per-capita supplies equivalent to prewar. Last year's crop was 14 percent above prewar indicating that there may have been, or could have been with only normal 1948-49 consumption, a sizable carry-over at the time of the 1949 harvest. If this were so, the carry-over stocks, together with production this year, probably would provide a normal per-capita supply for 1949-50.

Available data on lentil production, covering a very large proportion of the world's total crop, indicate that acreage has increased steadily since prewar. It has risen in the 18 reporting countries from an 681,000-acre average in 1935-39 of 681,000 acres to 872,000 acres in 1949. Production also increased in 1948, but because of low yields in the Mediterranean, dropped in 1949.

About 80 percent of the reported lentil production, represented by 4.4 million bags and 740,000 acres in 1949, was concentrated in and around the Mediterranean Basin. The other 20 percent, represented by 900,000 bags and 132,000 acres in 1948-49 was produced in Latin America. Chile, Argentina, and Mexico were the only American countries reporting. The 80 percent of total production reported from Mediterranean countries was distributed around the Basin roughly as follows: one-third on the southern or African side, one-third on the eastern or Asiatic side, and one-third on the northern or European side. Each of these areas produced about 1.5 million bags in 1949.

LENTILS: Production in specified countries, averages 1935-39 and 1940-44, annual 1948 and 1949

Continent and country	Acreage				Yield per acre				Production (Bags of 100 pounds)			
	Average		1948	1949 1/	Average		1948	1949 1/	Average		1948	1949 1/
	1935-39	1940-44			1935-39	1940-44			1935-39	1940-44		
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
THE AMERICAS												
Mexico	5	6	7	7	412	420	594	500	22	23	44	35
Argentina	34	28	74	75	779	982	745	733	265	275	551	550
Chile	110	48	49	50	532	625	622	600	585	300	305	300
Total	149	82	130	132	585	729	692	670	872	598	900	885
EUROPE												
Bulgaria	15	26	25	25	987	677	680	680	148	176	170	170
Czechoslovakia	14	5	2	2	629	800	900	732	88	40	18	16
France	24	25	62	44	862	548	611	450	207	137	379	198
Greece	26	26	27	24	485	481	470	458	126	125	127	110
Italy	51	52	62	59	527	452	473	481	269	235	293	284
Rumania	29	37	35	35	521	532	543	543	151	197	190	190
Spain	55	104	128	125	533	407	345	353	293	423	441	441
Total	214	275	341	314	599	485	474	449	1,282	1,333	1,618	1,409
ASIA												
Iraq	50	70	18	18	264	296	283	278	132	207	51	50
Lebanon	3	4	5	5	833	769	937	959	25	32	46	47
Syria	66	103	114	115	1,180	674	640	565	779	694	730	650
Turkey	76	93	101	106	661	747	873	708	502	695	882	750
Total	195	270	238	244	737	603	718	614	1,438	1,628	1,709	1,497
AFRICA												
Algeria	6	24	41	80	386	296	627	529	25	71	257	423
Egypt	82	79	73	75	1,477	1,541	1,421	1,333	1,211	1,217	1,037	1,000
French Morocco	34	39	28	25	271	274	375	400	92	107	105	100
Spanish Morocco	1	2	2	2	470	523	500	500	6	10	10	10
Total	123	144	144	182	1,085	976	978	842	1,334	1,405	1,409	1,533
World total	681	771	853	872	723	644	661	684	4,926	4,964	5,636	5,324

1/ Preliminary.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Years refer to year of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere and includes the harvest immediately following in the Southern Hemisphere. Averages are for years stated or for the nearest comparable period.

In European and Asiatic areas the crop was 13 to 12 percent below 1948 and 10 and 4 percent above prewar, respectively. In the African area it was 9 percent above 1948 and 15 percent above prewar.

Lentil acreage was generally high in the Basin. It was 26 percent above last year and 48 percent above prewar in Africa. It was slightly above last year and 25 percent above prewar in Asia, and slightly below last year, but 47 percent above prewar in Europe.

Yields were down to 449 pounds per acre in Europe in 1949 as compared to 474 pounds in 1948 and to the 599-pound average in 1935-39. They dropped to 614 pounds in Asia from 718 pounds in 1948 and 737 pounds average prewar and were down to 842 pounds in Africa in 1949 from 978 last year and 1,085 average in 1935-39.

Assuming average prewar growing conditions in another year and that lentil acreage remains at 1949 levels, production in the 18 countries might be expected to reach 6 million bags in another year. This would be 15 percent above the 5.2 million bags estimated for 1949-50. All of this increase under normal producing conditions would occur in the Mediterranean Basin. Prewar average yields on the 1948-49 acreage in Latin-America would result in a decline of production there.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

TOBACCO

PERU'S 1949 TOBACCO IMPORTS LOW

Peru's imports of leaf tobacco and tobacco products during the first 6 months of 1949 were far below the level of the previous year, according to the American Embassy in Lima.

The country's imports of leaf tobacco during the 6 months ending June 30, 1949, totaled only 2,600 pounds, compared with calendar year imports of 789,000 pounds in 1948 and 632,000 pounds in 1947. Abnormally high stocks of foreign leaf, resulting from large 1948 imports, are reported to be the principal reason for the decline in imports in the first half of 1949. Stocks of imported leaf on hand, consisting largely of flue-cured and Burley leaf from the United States, totaled 520,300 pounds on December 1, 1948. This compares with 357,000 pounds on the same date in 1947. There has been no indication that Peru plans to reduce its imports permanently below the level of the past few years.

Cigarette imports during January-June 1949 totaled 90,235 pounds, compared with calendar year imports of 468,100 pounds in 1948 and 549,180 pounds in 1947. Imports of cigars and pipe tobacco during the first 6 months of 1949 totaled 625 pounds and 80 pounds, respectively. This compares with imports of 2,240 pounds of cigars and 8,880 pounds of pipe tobacco during the calendar year 1948. The decline in imports of manufactured tobacco products is attributed to restrictions resulting from the shortage in dollar exchange, above average stocks on hand at the end of 1948, and decreased consumption apparently resulting from higher retail prices charged consumers for imported tobacco products.

If quality is disregarded, Peru could probably produce sufficient leaf to meet its consumption requirements. It is to the country's advantage, however, to continue the importation of relatively large quantities of leaf and manufactured products, because imported tobacco products and products made from imported leaf can be sold by the country's monopoly for a much larger profit than products made from domestically grown leaf. This is particularly true for cigarette tobaccos from the United States and cigar tobaccos from Cuba. Imports from these two countries account for practically all of Peru's imports of leaf and manufactured tobacco products.

Peru's production of leaf has averaged around 3,500,000 pounds annually during the past few years. Domestic leaf is of dark air-cured, and cigar types some of which is crossed with Cuban and Sumatran types. The principal tobacco producing regions are Tumbes (where about two-thirds of Peru's leaf has been grown during the past decade), Taraporto and Jaen.

BELGIUM'S 1949 TOBACCO HARVEST ABOVE 1948; IMPORTS SLIGHTLY LOWER

Belgium's 1949 production of leaf tobacco is estimated at 12 percent above the 1948 harvest, but still 69 percent below the 1943-47 average, the American Embassy in Brussels reports. Imports of leaf during the first 8 months of 1949 were 4 percent below the level of the corresponding period of 1948.

The country's 1949 harvest of leaf tobacco is estimated at 6,969,000 pounds from 3,353 acres, compared with 6,248,000 pounds from 4,020 acres in 1948 and the 5-year, 1943-47, annual average of 22,266,000 pounds from 11,504 acres. The 1949 yield per acre of 2,078 pounds was 34 percent above the 1948 yield of 1,554 pounds and 7 percent above the 1943-47 yield of 1,936 pounds.

Imports during the 8 months ending August 31, 1949, totaled 26,766,000 pounds as compared with 27,884,000 pounds in the corresponding period of 1948. The United States supplied 16,519,000 pounds, or 62 percent of Belgium's imports of leaf during thefirst 8 months of 1949, which was somewhat below that of the corresponding months in 1948 when imports from the United States totaled 19,169,000 pounds and represented 69 percent of the total. Other important sources of leaf during the first 8 months of 1949 include Brazil, the Dominican Republic and Turkey.

FATS AND OILS

BELGIAN CONGO'S PALM PRODUCTION, EXPORTS MAINTAIN HIGH LEVEL

Belgian Congo's 1949 production and exports of palm products appear to have maintained the record level established in 1948, according to the American Consulate General, Leopoldville.

Although current production figures are not available, incomplete information received from plantations indicates normal crop progress this year with production south of the Equator perhaps somewhat below average owing to an abnormally long dry season last year. Expansion activities of the Huileries du Congo Belge, one of the principal producing companies, now emphasize measures to assure a larger continuous yield from the native palms within its concessions, with less relative importance given to clearing ground for new plantations. In any case, the rate of expansion of palm oil plantations does not appear to be as rapid as it was in the immediate postwar period. Palm oil production amounted to 171,900 short tons in 1948, approximately 16 percent above that of the previous year.

Domestic consumption of palm oil probably now exceeds the previous annual rate of 44,000 tons as a result of the increase in the quantity used for soap making. Annual consumption for nutritional purposes is estimated at 28,000 tons.

During the first 9 months of 1949 exports of palm oil amounted to 91,960 tons, palm kernels 64,000, and palm kernel oil 12,300 compared with the total 1948 shipments of 121,680, 91,900 and 19,400 tons, respectively. Shipments of palm oil to Belgium and the United States, the largest purchasers, are averaging smaller than in 1948. On the other hand, Germany has emerged as the third most important importer.

Perhaps the most important single factor bearing on the prospects for palm oil has been the declining price in New York on contracts concluded by Congopalm, producers' export agent, with its New York customer.

Domestically, the effects of the return to an international buyer's market resulted in the repeal of price controls in August. Domestic prices are now in practice dependent on export prices. The stabilization fund administered by Congopalm since mid-1948 was liquidated as of August 15. The palm kernel export commission appointed by the Governor General, which has controlled all prices under war-time legislation, was scheduled to terminate on December 1.

All other restrictions regarding pricing and export allocations having been repealed, from January 1, 1950, the export of palm oil, derived products, and products containing palm oil will be unrestricted, provided that shipments pass an analysis conducted by a laboratory licensed by the Government. Reports are to indicate the percentage of free fatty acid, water, and impurities contained in the shipments offered for export, as well as the percentage of palm oil contained in the derived product. This legislative restriction, issued on October 3, is intended solely to protect the quality reputation of Congo production in foreign markets and assure a standardized product. Similar legislation for palm kernels went into effect on December 1.

BELGIAN CONGO: Exports of palm oil, palm kernels, and palm kernel oil, January-September 1949 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of destination	Palm oil			Palm kernels			Palm kernel oil		
	Average 1935-39	1948	Jan.-Sept. 1949 1/	Average 1935-39	1948	Jan.-Sept. 1949 1/	Average 1935-39	1948	Jan.-Sept. 1949 1/
Canada	268	1,784	-	-	-	-		-	-
Cuba	2,185	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
United States	21,705	34,582	17,445	-	-	4,639		-	-
Belgium	21,802	75,288	47,082	69,495	91,125	32,258		8,593	214
France	-	253	-	99	-	-		-	-
Germany	4.678	-	16,698	8,425	-	26,381		-	5,971
Italy	9,670	915	5,706	46	-	-		-	952
Netherlands	1,352	-	-	8,712	779	735		-	-
Sweden	-	-	998	-	-	-		-	-
Switzerland	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	249
United Kingdom	1,356	91	1,785	-	-	-		-	-
Angola	775	-	-	2,038	-	-		-	-
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	524	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Canary Islands	-	-	1,116	-	-	-		-	-
Northern Rhodesia	2/ 789	480	-	2/ 143	-	-		622	409
Southern Rhodesia		533	-		-	-		1,595	586
Union of South Africa	7,056	7,751	878	4,972	-	-		8,494	3,923
Others	290	3	252	72	-	-		99	39
Total	72,450	121,680	91,960	94,002	91,904	64,013	3/ 322	19,403	12,343

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Does not specify Northern or Southern Rhodesia.
3/ Average 1938-39; country breakdown not available.

Compiled from official sources and consular reports.

SOUTH AFRICA ATTEMPTS COMMERCIAL CASTOR BEAN PRODUCTION

The Union of South Africa expects to produce castor beans on a commercial scale in 1950. This is the only major vegetable oilseed of importance in the country's economy which has not been produced locally.

Approximately 10,000 acres in the Western Transvaal are being planted to a dwarf castor plant known as mauthner. The seed originally came from Hungary and has proved by experimental and research work during the last 2 years to be adapted to South African conditions. Since the plant is drought resistant, it appears to thrive despite the limited rainfall in Western Transvaal.

South Africa has depended on imports of castor beans and oil in the past. In 1946 the value of these purchases amounted to £362,000 (approximately $1,460,000).

The present price level of castor beans is approximately £30 per short tons ($84.00).

HOPS

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN HOPS CROP ESTIMATE REDUCED

The latest official report places the 1949 hops crop in Czechoslovakia at 4,360 metric tons (9,612,000 pounds) from a harvested area of 7,900 hectares (19,521 acres). This compares with 4,863 metric tons (10,720,000 pounds) from 7,830 hectares (19,348 acres) in 1948.

The earlier forecasts had been for a crop of 5,000 metric tons (11,023,000 pounds) in 1949. The small crop is attributed partly to unfavorable climatic conditions and partly to inexperience and lack of interest on the part of growers.

The revised estimate of the 1949 crop compares with the prewar (1934-38) average of 21,462,000 pounds and with the official goal for 1949 of 14,881,000 pounds. The continued low production of hops in Czechoslovakia is causing considerable concern to government authorities in that country since hops have long constituted one of the nation's principal agricultural exports.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

(Week of December 26, 1949)

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the U.S. gulf-port average

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1949	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good..........	12-22	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	76.45	44.32
Ashmouni, F.G.F.........	"	"	"	74.10	42.95
Karnak, Good............	"	"	"	80.30	46.55
Karnak, F.G.F...........	"	"	"	74.05	42.93
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine............	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/ 620.00	16.50
Broach Vijay, Fine......	"	"	"	1/ 690.00	18.37
Karachi		Maund			
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine...	12-21	82.28 lbs.	"	77.00	28.23
289F Sind, S.G., Fine...	"	"	"	83.50	30.62
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine.	"	"	"	86.00	31.53
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B..................	12-22	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	1/ 4000.00	37.55
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5.........	12-21	101.4 lbs.	Sol	(not	quoted)
Pima, Type 1............	"	"	"	(not	quoted)
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 4............	12-22	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	170.00	27.97
Sertao, Type 5..........	"	"	"	(not	available)
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5.......	"	"	"	188.00	30.93
Torreon		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16"........	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	210.00	23.96
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av. Mid. 15/16".	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	30.22

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Nominal.

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Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1949	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good	12-29	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	75.05	43.50
Ashmouni, F.G.F.	"	"	"	73.05	42.34
Karnak, Good	"	"	"	81.55	47.27
Karnak, F.G.F.	"	"	"	75.55	43.79
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine	12-29	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/ 620.00	16.50
Broach Vijay, Fine	"	"	"	1/ 690.00	18.37
Karachi		Maund			
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine	12-28	82.28 lbs.	"	77.00	28.23
289 F Sind, S.G., Fine	"	"	"	84.00	30.80
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine	"	"	"	86.00	31.53
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B	12-29	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	1/ 4000.00	37.55
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	12-28	101.4 lbs.	Sol	(not	quoted)
Pima, Type 1	"	"	"	400.00	27.60
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 4	12-29	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	170.00	27.97
Sertao, Type 5	"	"	"	(not	available)
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5	"	"	"	188.00	30.93
Torreon		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	212.00	24.19
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXXX	30.35

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U. S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Nominal.

MEXICO'S COTTON CROP ESTIMATE REVISED UPWARD

The 1949 cotton crop in Mexico is now estimated at 896,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) compared with the last previous estimate of 815,000 bales. This is 57 percent higher than the 1948 crop of 570,000 bales which was the largest on record to that time. The sharp increase this year is attributed to increased acreage, especially in the Matamoros district, favorable weather conditions, more effective methods of insect control, better adapted seed, and a higher percentage of irrigated land.

In the Matamoros district (near Brownsville, Texas), where most of the Mexican cotton entering export trade is grown, production rose from 109,000 bales in 1947 to 140,000 in 1948 and 322,000 in 1949. Acreage for this district in 1950 is forecast locally at 740,000 acres, representing an increase of about 30 percent above the 1949 acreage.

Exports from the 1949 crop prior to December 15 were reported at 382,000 bales and the exportable surplus estimated at 610,000 bales. Nearly all of the remaining surplus has been sold and is awaiting shipment. The principal export destinations this year are Canada, the United Kingdom, and western Europe, including Trizone Germany. Separate figures are not available because practically all of the cotton passes through ports in the United States and is shown on Mexican trade records as exports to the United States.

Quotations for Mexican cotton (at Torreon) in recent weeks have been lower than comparable grades and staples of American (at Houston) by 5-1/2 to 6 United States cents a pound. However, the difference on foreign markets is only 1 to 2 cents because of Mexico's export taxes, exchange regulations, and extra costs of inland transportation to port and handling charges.

Cotton mills in Mexico are expected to consume about 285,000 bales during the 1949-50 year. The entire surplus is expected to be exported during the year, leaving a carry-over at the end of the season (June 30, 1950) about equal to the 70,000 bales reported at the beginning of the season.

SHORTAGE OF COTTON TEXTILES CONTINUES IN DENMARK 1/

Cotton consumption in Denmark gradually has been increasing and has now reached the prewar level. It was reported at 36,000 bales during the 1948-49 season, or a slight increase over the 34,000 bales consumed in 1947-48. However, yarn production still does not meet requirements of the weaving mills, and it has been necessary to import about one-fourth of all yarn used. A shortage of foreign exchange has made it necessary for Denmark to restrict imports of cotton yarn, and this has

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1/ Based on a report prepared by Harry LeBovit, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Copenhagen.

necessitated in turn the rationing of cotton yarn to the mills. This has been done on the basis of their 1939 consumption.

Securing an adequate supply of cotton yarn has been one of the Danish textile industry's major problems. Belgium has been one of the principal sources of supply for cotton yarn in the postwar period, but imports were materially reduced because of the difficulty in concluding trade agreements with Belgium. During the early part of the 1948-49 season several weaving mills had to close because of a lack of yarn supplies. The situation, however, improved considerably during the first 6 months of 1949 due to increased production of domestic yarn and larger imports, and the textile industry hopes yarn supplies can be maintained throughout the current season.

Cotton piece goods imports also have been restricted due to the shortage of foreign exchange. This has kept supplies of finished goods below the prewar level and made it necessary to ration many cotton items to the consumer. In the prewar period Denmark imported about 47 million yards of cotton goods and produced about 26 million yards in domestic mills. In 1948 imports of finished goods were restricted to 14 million yards, and domestic production was 28 million yards. Thus, the total supply of cotton goods is now considerably under the prewar level.

The cotton industry has been the most strictly controlled branch of the textile industry during the postwar period. After October 1, 1949, existing regulations specifying the types of yarns that could be used were abolished on condition that the producers agreed not to reduce the production of work clothes, shirting, and sheeting materials. Maximum price regulations, which covered about 80 percent of all cotton goods, also were abolished. There has been some easing of consumer rationing, and it is anticipated this also can be eliminated as the supplies increase.

Raw cotton imports have been maintained through ECA assistance despite the shortage of foreign exchange. After the war, spinning mills were using mostly cotton imported from Brazil but in 1948 United States cotton obtained through ECA funds came into use and imports from other countries have declined. In the 1948-49 season Denmark secured 90 percent of its cotton imports from the United States and only 10 percent from Brazil. During the first 3 months (August-October) of the current season, the United States has exported 2,500 bales to Denmark.

The equipment and machinery of the weaving and spinning industry are reported to be in poor condition because of the long period of use during the war without replacement. Grants have been made to the spinning mills for the purchase of new machinery, and some has been bought in the United States through ECA. Plans are being made to increase capacity of the spinning mills through modernization to the point where most of the yarn requirements can be met by domestic production. The Danish textile industry also hopes that production costs can be lowered so that Danish goods will be able to compete on the world market for finished cotton goods.

There is still a shortage of skilled workers in the textile industry which must be filled. Present recruiting and training programs are to be intensified to fill this need. The spinning mills are now operating two shifts per day.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

ARGENTINE CATTLE PRICES IN LINIERS MARKET DECLINE [1]

Cattle prices in the Liniers Market in Buenos Aires are reported to have decreased around 20 percent in November with no appreciable recovery since. Rising price levels at the terminal market during the greater part of 1948 and 1949 were established by cattle destined for domestic consumption. Consequently, this market has been the most profitable outlet for cattle, and daily marketing of 15,000 head was not uncommon during the period.

Recent prices in the Liniers Market, for the most part, have been considerably below the 65 centavos per live kilo (8.8 cents per pound) basic quotation established for export cattle under the Anglo-Argentine pact. The greater portion of export cattle is purchased directly from estancias by exporting packers.

The current drop in cattle prices has been of considerable concern to cattle producers, particularly to those who operate on a small or medium scale. The Argentine Meat Producers Corporation attributes falling prices to heavy marketings of cattle, which were precipitated by continued dry conditions in western Buenos Aires Province. Marketings were further increased by disrupted slaughter schedules brought about by strikes and generally disturbed labor conditions in the earlier part of November.

Frigorificos and the Municipal Slaughterhouse, slaughtering for domestic consumption, are reported to have operated without a subsidy since July 1949. Notwithstanding the removal of the subsidy, prices of cattle destined for domestic consumption were at record levels during the July-October period. Export frigorificos, however, continued to be subsidized, but prices paid in excess of levels established by the official system of grades cannot be included in the monthly total of deficits incurred.

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[1] Based on report from George J. Dietz, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires.